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16 November 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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✓ Warsaw Pact:

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[redacted] technical preparations are now under way for a Warsaw Pact meeting to be held about 23 November. Other reports state that it will be a meeting of the Pact's Political Consultative Committee.

East German Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz stated last August that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact countries was planned for late fall to "re-examine the results of the preparatory work for the conclusion of a peace treaty and to stipulate further measures." Although Khrushchev's withdrawal of the year-end deadline for a German treaty has reduced the urgency of this issue, he may wish to maintain the pattern of unified action by the Warsaw Pact members in dealing with the Berlin and German problems.

According to one of the reports, party first secretaries of the various bloc nations, including Khrushchev, would attend the meeting. In addition to issuing a formal endorsement of Khrushchev's more flexible approach on negotiations with the West, the Warsaw Pact leaders may take steps formally to exclude Albania from the Pact as a further move in the Soviet campaign to isolate and discredit the Hoxha regime in the Communist world.

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South Vietnam - Laos: A South Vietnamese reconnaissance unit in southern Laos near Attopeu was attacked on 11 November by a Vietnamese Communist force, claiming to be part of "Ho Chi Minh's army," and all but eight of the thirty-man South Vietnamese group were captured, [redacted]

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[redacted] While Hanoi is not expected to report this clash in such a way as to admit the presence of Vietnamese Communists in Laos, both Hanoi and Peiping may now renew their charges that South Vietnamese troops are present in Laos. As part of their [redacted]

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propaganda condemning US actions in Southeast Asia, Hanoi and Peiping have charged within the past few days that South Vietnam is being used as a springboard for further intervention in Laos. The captured South Vietnamese group is one of several such units operating in the border area.

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The Watch Committee at its meeting on 15 November reached the following conclusion on Southeast Asia:

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There have been no material changes in the situations in South Vietnam and Laos.

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✓ Non-aligned Nations: According to a member of the Indian Embassy in Cairo, it is now "fairly certain" that Nehru, Nasir, and Tito will meet briefly in Cairo on 19 November during the Indian leader's stopover on his return to India from visits to the United States and Mexico. The official declined comment on who had suggested the meeting except to deny that it had been Nehru's idea. Nehru, who had long ago planned a brief refueling stop and meeting with Nasir, almost certainly would have preferred to avoid such a "non-aligned" gathering so soon after his trip to Washington. There is no confirmation as yet of Tito's planned attendance, but in view of the emphasis he has given to the need for continued non-aligned consultations, he can be expected to welcome such a meeting.

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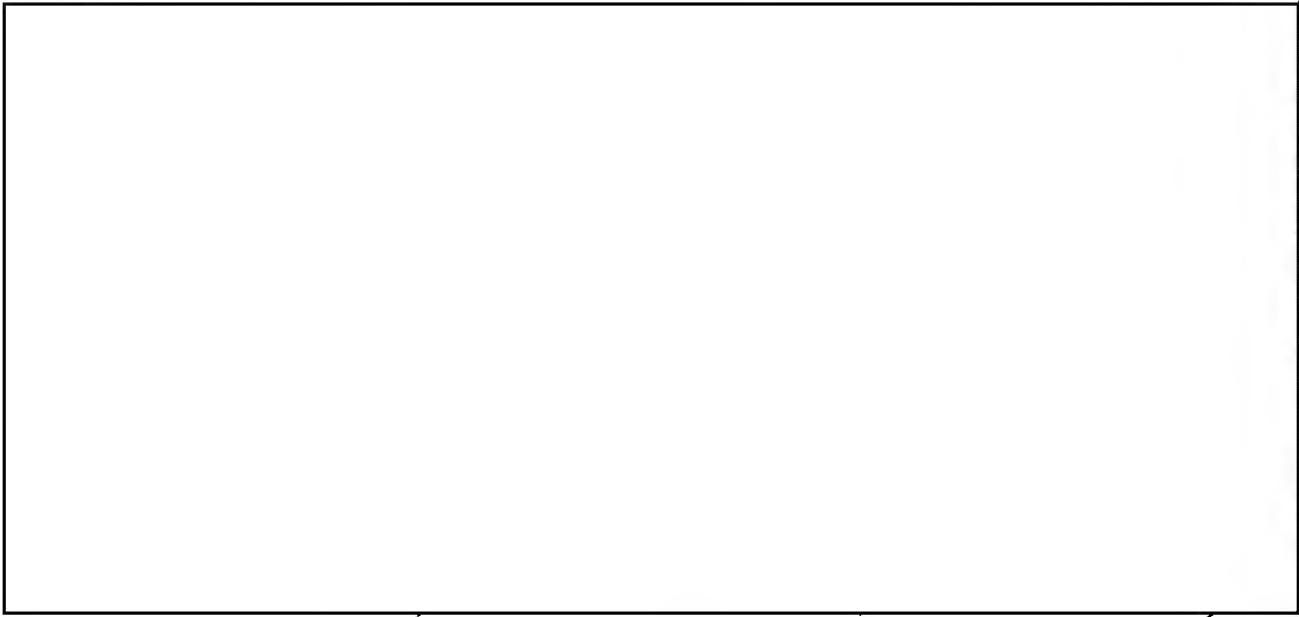
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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

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On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Southeast Asia: Carried on Page v of Daily Brief) [redacted]

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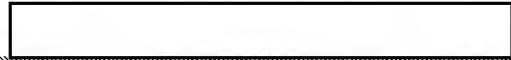
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LATE ITEM

✓ *Dominican Republic (information as of 0330 EDT): President Balaguer told the American Consul General last night that he will resign if the return of the late dictator's two brothers earlier that day means, as he fears, the imposition of a policy completely reverse to that which he and General Ramfis Trujillo had been following. The President revealed that Ramfis had informed him in a letter dated 14 November that he intended to resign. Ramfis was out of contact all day yesterday, and the President did not know whether or not these developments, together with the reported release from custody of a leading pro-Castro figure, occurred with Ramfis' approval. Balaguer expressed fear that his resignation and that of Ramfis would be followed by a military takeover, but agreed that any regime which did not act to secure the recognition of other hemisphere governments could not last.

Prior to the unexpected return of the two Trujillo brothers, Dominican government media had reacted enthusiastically to news of the US statement of 14 November before the special OAS committee recommending a partial lifting of sanctions against the Dominican government. The committee had been expected formally to recommend such action to the Council of the OAS today. [redacted]

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